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THE

INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

AUGUST 1985

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VOL. V, NO. 3

SESSION LAWS

AUGUST 26
MAILING
EXPECTED

On July 23, the final Session Laws copy was sent to the printer. Montana legislators and MCA subscribers should be shipped their copies of the Session Laws the week of August 26.

INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

ORGANIZATION
SET FOR
AUGUST 2

The interim Subcommittee on Infrastructure will hold its first meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 2, in Room 104 of the Capitol. Committee members will elect a chairman and a vice-chairman and adopt a study plan for the 1985-87 interim.

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

AUG 9 - 1985

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The Subcommittee's mission is defined in Senate Joint Resolution 42, which was passed by the 1985 Legislature and given a high priority in a post-session poll of legislators. Its first task will be to examine the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Infrastructure, regarding various means by which the state could help local governments finance streets, roads, highways, and other public works.

JOINT INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIEN LAWS

SUBCOMMITTEE
TO ORGANIZE
SEPTEMBER 20

Friday, September 20 is the date set for the organizational meeting in Room 104 of the Capitol. The agenda will be announced in next month's Interim.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL
ORGANIZES

At a brief organizational meeting on May 31, the Environmental Quality Council elected Representative Dennis Iverson to a third term as chairman; Senator Mike Halligan will serve a second term as

SHELVED WITH
PERIODICALS



Montana Legislative Council

vice chairman. The Council will be organized into a Land Resources Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Dave Brown, and a Water Resources Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Halligan. Potential study topics for the land subcommittee include hazardous waste management, regional energy policy, Hard-rock Impact Act, oil and gas development, and natural resource earmarked accounts. The water subcommittee is expected to focus on water quality issues related to natural resource development. The full EQC plans to initiate a subdivision study in early 1986.

CLARK FORK OF COLUMBIA VISITED

On June 18-19, EQC members participated in an intensive two-day tour of water quality "hot spots" along the Clark Fork River from Butte to Frenchtown. The tour examined the various efforts to identify, investigate, and remediate environmental hazards, including three federal superfund sites.

The next EQC meeting will probably be held in early September; please contact EQC for details.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

FINALISTS FOR AUDITOR SELECTED

At its July 31 meeting, the Legislative Audit Committee selected four finalists for the position of Legislative Auditor from the 29 applications submitted. The finalists are: Earl McCartney, Libby; James Murphy, Helena; Scott Seacat, East Helena; and James Gillett, Clancy.

The Committee will interview finalists and plans to make a selection at its meeting scheduled for August 23.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ECK RETIRES

Eleanor Eck, who has long served Montana's legislators in the offices of the Legislative Council and Legislative Auditor, retired in July. The Legislative Council honored Eleanor at a retirement banquet at the Montana Club July 12. A number of important speeches were made, but since Eleanor was practicing to be retired, she didn't take them down. We will all miss Eleanor, but fortunately she will be back from time to time when we need extra help.

PETESCH
SELECTED

Greg Petesch was selected by the Legislative Council to fill the position of Legal Services Director. Bob Pyfer's last day, fittingly enough, was the day of the Special Session. Greg is really excited for the next session to grow close so he can begin receiving draft bills. In the meantime, contact Greg for help with rules questions or general questions of legislative law.

LEGISLATOR
CLAIMS
REVIEW

A number of interim committees and other committees are funded through the Legislative Council. As a consequence, the Legislative Council Chairman is responsible to authorize legislator claims for payment. At a July 12 meeting, the Council approved a motion saying that the chairman has the discretion to accept or reject a claim in whole or in part relative to whether the claim is reasonable. Any questions as to what may or may not be reasonable should be addressed to Council Chairman Senator Allen Kolstad.

LEGISLATIVE
VIDEO TAPE

The Legislative Council is pleased to announce the availability of a video cassette on the legislative process. Filmed during the 1985 session, this tape follows the important steps a bill takes on its way to becoming a law. The tape is appropriate for high school classes, study groups, churches, service clubs, and similar groups. To learn more about availability of the tape, contact the Council.

BLOCK
BOUNDARY
SUGGESTION
PROJECT

The Council approved a trial run to test the feasibility of Council staff assisting local officials in preparing suggestions for census block boundaries for use in the 1990 census. Council staff will visit local officials in Ravalli, Missoula, Granite, and Deer Lodge Counties during August to conduct the trial run. For more information on this detailed and difficult project, contact Bob Person or Karen Renne at the Council.

JUVENILE
DETENTION

While the resolution calling for a study of juvenile detention came in too low on the priority list to be funded, it appears that funding support may be available from other sources. In view of that fact and the fact that no other legislative policy body was considering the problem right now, the Council authorized staff to explore the possibility of applying for and to apply for a grant or grants to support such a study. A further report will be made at the next Council meeting.

INTERIM
BUDGETS

The Council set the following interim study budgets:

Vo-Techs and Job Training	\$11,000
Lien Laws	9,500
Agricultural Problems	12,250
Infrastructure	10,000
Interim Support	6,250
	<u>\$49,000</u>

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

JUNE 27
MEETING
HELD

The Legislative Finance Committee met June 27. The Appropriations Report for the 1985 Legislature was presented by staff and discussed by the Committee.

The Committee discussed the lawsuit against the foundation program with the Attorney General and representatives of the Board of Public Education, Governor's Office, and the Office of Public Instruction. There was concern that there be someone coordinating the defense. A subcommittee of Senators Van Valkenburg and Gage and Representatives Donaldson and Winslow was appointed to determine if the state was adequately represented in this lawsuit. Subsequently, the Governor's Office has assumed the role of coordinating the defense.

COAL TAX OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

LEADERS
SELECTED
JULY 12

Senator B. F. Christiaens was elected chairman, and Representative Dennis Nathe was elected vice-chairman at the organizational meeting on July 12.

Reports were heard from the Office of Budget and Program Planning on coal severance tax collections during the last fiscal year and on anticipated revenues during the next two years, from the Governor's staff on implementation of the New Coal Production Incentive Tax Credit, from the Department of Commerce on utilization of county land planning funds, and on the organization of the Montana Science and Technology Alliance, and from the State Librarian on the new use of coal tax funds by the State Library and by the State Library Federation.

OCTOBER
DATE SET

The next meeting will be held October 10 and 11 in Room 104 of the Capitol.

REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 6
MEETING
PLANNED

Revenue Oversight Committee Chairman Mel Williams and the staff are beginning to develop the agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Committee. That meeting will be September 6 in Helena, specifically in Room 104 of the Capitol. It is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. Tentative agenda items at this time are: a presentation by Mr. Bruce Kania, President of A/E Montana in Manhattan, Montana, on the situation facing Montana's ethanol producers; Committee discussion of the issue of property exempt from taxation; and a staff update on the implementation of House Bill No. 704, a bill allowing local governments to compensate for property tax protests when setting levies. The Department of Revenue will also make its regular presentations regarding litigation, rules, and other items of legislative interest.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE
TO MEET
SEPTEMBER 6

The first meeting of the Committee on Indian Affairs is scheduled for Friday, September 6. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in Room 108 of the Capitol.

During the organizational meeting, the Committee will receive background reports from staff members, select study topics for the 1985-1987 interim, and elect officers.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH INSURANCE FOR RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

MEETING
SET FOR
SEPTEMBER 13

The Select Committee on Health Insurance for Retired Public Employees will hold its first meeting on Friday, September 13, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Room 104 of the Capitol.

Items on the agenda for this organizational meeting include review, revision, and adoption of a study design and work plan on postretirement health care benefits, and election of officers.

WATER POLICY COMMITTEE

LATE AUGUST
MEETING
PLANNED

The interim Water Policy Committee, established by HB 680 and staffed by EQC, has tentatively scheduled its inaugural meeting for the final week of August. Please contact EQC for details.

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	AUGUST		THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY			
				1 CAPT. BLDG. & PLANNING rm. 104	2 INFRASTRUCTURE SUB.COMM. rm. 104	3
4	5	6	7	8 -----NCSL ANNUAL MEETING IN SEATTLE -----	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

1	2 LABOR DAY	3	4	5	6 LEG. COUNCIL rm. 132 ROC -rm. 104 INDIAN AFFAIRS rm. 108	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 HEALTH INS. COMM.-rm. 104	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 LIEN LAWS COMM.-rm. 104 TENTATIVE - Finance Comm.	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 --- CSG ANNUAL MEETING IN EUGENE, OREGON	30		--- (Oct. 2)			

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